

REQUEST FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE GENERIC NAME "JUMALA"  
FRIELE, 1882 (CLASS GASTROPODA) AS A NAME CALCULATED  
TO GIVE OFFENCE ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS

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(Commission's reference: Z.N.(S.) 307)

The object of the present petition is to show that *Jumala* Friele, 1882, comes within the scope of the decision taken by the International Congress of Zoology on the recommendation by the Commission (1950, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 4 : 193—194) that :—

The use for a generic or subgeneric name . . . of a word . . . which can reasonably be regarded, in any language, as calculated to give offence on political, religious or personal grounds is prohibited . . .

It shall be open to any person . . . of the opinion that a given name has been published in contravention of the provisions of the present Article to refer the question to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, and it shall be the duty of the said Commission promptly to consider every case so submitted to it, and, if satisfied that the submission is well-grounded, to order the name concerned to be suppressed.

2. The name *Jumala* was proposed by Friele (*Norske Nordhavs-Expd., Zoologi* [Norwegian North Atlantic Expedition, 1876—78] 3(8) : 6) for certain boreal whelks with a peculiar radular structure (type species, *Fusus turtoni* Bean, 1834, *Mag. nat. Hist.* 7 : 493). He stated that he had chosen the name as being that "of a Lapp deity". Later, Friele realised that this was not, as he had apparently supposed, a pagan name, but the Lapp (*i.e.*, the Finnish) word for the Christian Deity. Through a colleague he asked that the name be withdrawn and replaced by *Ukko* Friele in Norman, 1893 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* (6) 12 : 352). However, this replacement was needless, for by then another name, *Beringius* Dall, had been introduced for a North Pacific gastropod having the same structural peculiarity. The date of *Beringius* presents something of a problem, however.

3. In the two most recent complete compilations of generic names (Schulze, Kükenthal, and Heider, 1926, *Nomenclator Animalium Generum et Subgenerum*; and Neave, 1939, *Nomenclator Zoologicus*), the name *Beringius* Dall is cited as follows: "Dall, 1879. Sci. Res. Explor. Alaska (Buccin.) expl. pl. 2, fig. 1". Of this reference Dall himself has said (Dall, 1886, *Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.* 9 : 304):—

In 1879 there were distributed to all persons known to be interested in northern mollusks a set of plates belonging to my report (unavoidably

delayed in MSS.) on the Buccinidae of the Alaskan fauna, some fifty copies in all, properly lettered with the name of the species by the engraver. I had found on dissection that the rhachidian tooth of the radula in *Chrysodomus crebricostatus* Dall (1877) was smooth and flat . . . , and intercalated in the legend of the plate the subgeneric name *Beringius* for this species . . . Subsequently my friend, Mr. Friele . . . discovered the same peculiarity in *Fusus turtoni*, which he accordingly separated under the name of *Jumala*.

Now, I am far from claiming that if the other characters coincide, *Beringius* should take precedence of *Jumala*; on the contrary, I believe it should not, and that Mr. Friele's name should stand.

4. Thus in 1886, while not arguing for the priority of *Beringius*, Dall nevertheless validly introduced it with a brief description and designation of a type species. Later, when the unfortunate denotation of *Jumala* became known, he reversed his opinion and recommended adoption of the earlier dating of *Beringius* as of 1879. He suggested this in 1895 (*Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.* 17 : 710) not so much to establish priority for his own generic name as to provide a convenient and quasi-legal means of removing an offensive name from usage. The reference as cited by him at that time—"Sci. Res. Expl. Alaska, 1879, pl. II, legend"—has been accepted in good faith not only by the compilers of the two nomenclators mentioned above but also by numerous authors (see, for example, Thiele's monumental "Handbuch der Systematischen Weichtierkunde", Teil 1 : 306, 1929), although it is not listed in the "Bibliography and short biographical sketch of William Healey Dall" of Bartsch, Rehder, and Shields (1946, *Smithsonian misc. Coll.* 104).

5. In the passage published in 1886 quoted in paragraph 3 above Dall referred to the delay which had occurred in the publication of the text of his account of the Buccinidae of the Alaskan fauna on one of the plates for which, distributed in 1879, the generic name *Beringius* first appeared. The "Scientific Results of the Exploration by the parties under the charge of W. H. Dall during the years 1865—1874", volume 2 of which was designed for the publication of Dall's paper on the Buccinidae is stated by one compiler to be "A uniformly paged reprint of papers by Dall and others on various topics". Dall himself cited the date 1876—1879. In the five papers of this series in the Stanford library the above title is carried as a running title on the reprints. These papers are not bound together as a volume but their dates embrace those (1876—1879) cited by Dall. Hence, I assume that volume 2 was a project not realised except for the issuance of the finished plates for Dall's paper on the Buccinidae. This conclusion is strengthened by the fact that the *Catalogue of Books and Maps in the British Museum (Natural History)* (1 : 415), while giving particulars of the six papers published as "Vol. 1", carries no suggestion that a second volume was ever published. The list of papers given for "Vol. 1" includes none on Buccinidae.

6. A word of explanation is necessary as to the original reference for the nominal species *Chrysodomus crebricostatus* Dall which is the type species of *Beringius* Dall, whether that generic name is accepted as from the legend on the plate distributed in 1879 or from the publication of that name in Dall's paper of 1886 (quoted in paragraph 3 above). Dall himself stated that the original reference for the foregoing name was *Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences*, vol. 7, p. 6, "extras March 19, 1877". In the Dall bibliography of Bartsch, Rehder & Shields (referred to in paragraph 4 above) the statement is made that the paper in which the description of this species appeared was "published as a separate from Proc. California Acad. Sci., pp. 1—6, Mar. 19. (Vol. 7 of Proceedings never appeared.)". An author's reprint in the Stanford Library is headed "From the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, March 17, 1877" and is pagged 1—6, the description of *Chrysodomus crebricostatus* appearing on page 1. A copy of Volume 7 of the Proceedings, also in the Stanford Library, is dated as closing in 1876 and contains no such paper by Dall. Hence, I think we must conclude that contrary to Dall's assertion, volume 7 of the Proceedings of the California Academy is not a correct reference but rather that we must treat the foregoing name as having been published in 1877 in a pamphlet by Dall entitled "Preliminary Descriptions of New Species of Mollusks from the Northwest Coast of America" which was prepared as a preprint of a paper destined for, but never actually published in, the Proceedings of the California Academy of Sciences, and that the page to which the name should be attributed is page 1, not page 6 as stated by Dall.

7. In recent years a few workers, aware of the doubtful status of *Beringius* Dall, 1879, and unimpressed by the fact that *Jumala* is currently used among the Christian Finns as the name of the Deity, have readopted *Jumala* Friele, 1882, as prior to *Beringius* Dall, 1886.

8. Neither the name *Jumala* Friele, 1882, nor the name *Beringius* Dall, 1886, has been taken as the base of a family-group name. Accordingly, no problem arises in the present case in connection with the *Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology*.

9. If, as I hope, the International Commission agrees to suppress the generic name *Jumala* Friele, the question discussed above will become one of practical importance, since the name *Beringius* Dall will then become the oldest available name for this genus of whelk, and it will become essential to know whether this name should be attributed to Dall, 1879, or to Dall, 1886. It might perhaps be argued that this name was validly published in 1879 in that Dall implied, in the discussion quoted above, that copies of the plates illustrating his paper were made available to members of the interested public and were

not merely issued, as the critics of this view have averred, to his personal friends. On the whole, it appears to me that such an argument would be unduly casuistical and would involve a strained interpretation of the provisions of Article 25 relating to "publication". Accordingly, it is suggested that the Commission should rule that the distribution in 1879 of copies of the plates prepared to illustrate Dall's projected paper on the Buccinidae did not constitute the "publication" of those plates and therefore that the name *Beringius* Dall, as it appeared on the legend of the plate bearing the number "pl. 2" possesses no status in nomenclature. It is recognised that this course will cause some inconvenience, for the attribution of the name *Beringius* to the foregoing plate has become deeply embedded in the literature, but it is felt that the Commission would be unlikely to take the view that this would constitute a sufficient reason for the use of its Plenary Powers for the purpose of validating the name *Beringius* as from the distribution of these plates in 1879. This suggestion is, however, here advanced in order to provide an opportunity to specialists during the six-month period following the publication of the present application in the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* to express an opinion on the relative advantages of the alternative courses.

#### ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL "A"

The International Commission is asked :—

- (1) to suppress, under the Special Procedure prescribed by the Thirteenth International Congress of Zoology, Paris, 1948, for use in the case of a name calculated to give religious offence, the under-mentioned generic name for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy : *Jumala Friele*, 1882 ;
- (2) to rule (a) that the advance distribution in 1879 of copies of the plates prepared to illustrate a paper by Dall on the Buccinidae in a projected but never published second volume of the *Scientific Results of the Exploration of Alaska by the parties under the charge of W. H. Dall, during the years 1866—1874* did not constitute publication within the meaning of Article 25 of the *Règles* and therefore (b) that the name *Beringius* Dall possesses no status of availability as from the date on which the foregoing plates were so distributed ;
- (3) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* : *Beringius* Dall, 1886 (gender : masculine) (type species, by monotypy : *Chrysodomus crebricostatus* Dall, 1877) ;
- (4) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—*crebricostatus* Dall, 1877, as published in the combination *Chrysodomus crebricostatus* (specific name of type species of *Beringius* Dall, 1886) ;

(5) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *Jumala* Friele, 1882 (name suppressed under (1) above) ;

(b) *Beringius* Dall, 1879 (name rejected under (2) above).

#### ALTERNATIVE “ B ”

The International Commission is asked :—

(1) (as in (1) in Alternative “ A ”)—suppression of the name *Jumala* Friele, 1882, as a name calculated to give religious offence ;

(2) to use its Plenary Powers to validate the name *Beringius* Dall as from 1879 when this name appeared on the legend of a plate numbered “ plate 2 ”, one of a series of plates prepared to illustrate a paper on Buccinidae distributed to correspondents in advance of the anticipated publication of the text, which would have formed volume 2 of the work entitled *Scientific Results of the exploration of Alaska by the parties under the charge of W. H. Dall, during the years 1866—1874* ;

(3) to place the under-mentioned generic name on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* : *Beringius*, 1879, as validated under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above (gender : masculine) (type species by monotypy : *Chrysodomus crebricostatus* Dall, 1877) ;

(4) to place the under-mentioned specific name on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—*crebricostatus* Dall, 1877, as published in the combination *Chrysodomus crebricostatus* (specific name of type species of *Beringius*, Dall, 1879) ;

(5) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *Jumala* Friele, 1882 (name suppressed under (1) above) ;

(b) *Beringius* Dall, 1886 (a junior homonym of *Beringius* Dall, 1879, as validated under the Plenary Powers under (2) above).